

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 21, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs Alexander Graham Bell to Dr Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Saturday, May 21, 1898. My dear Alec:

I don't get so much time for writing here after all, what with the children and going to see Mamma the time goes. I have not heard from you for two days, perhaps there is a letter in town. Please address me at Twin Oaks West Washington, now.

I am going to dress my prettiest when I have finished this, what for do you suppose? To receive Charlie Catlin and his wife!

Well the afternoon is over and Charlie and consort did not materialize but Mr. Totten did and I had to leave my letter and see the postman come and go while I entertained him. I hope he was entertained because I wasn't. Elsie however was prinking for another man — and I had to fill in the time. Then Mamma was alone and I had to go to her and stay while first Dr. Hamlin and then Mr and Mrs Pollock called. Mamma consulted Mr Hamlin about Miss Yale, she is indeed very much troubled, she wants the school, but to put the whole responsibility for bringing the school down on her is pretty hard on her. She will receive all the pupils at Twin Oaks, do anything and everything, but to make her responsible for the failure or success the health or ill health of the pupils is more than ought to be asked of her. I was horrified to have Dr. Hamlin ask Mamma in a tone of surprise if you did not use signs with me at all? He is absolutely and entirely ignorant of the distinctions between signs and the alphabet of the meaning of signs in fact wanted to know whether deaf people all over the world could not communicate with each other by the manual alphabet? Yes Dr Hamlin knows Dr. Gallaudet very well and has been at Gallaudet College graduations.

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No news — I had a long letter from Mrs Kennan but she said 2 nothing either. I will of course telegraph all decisive news but at present the papers are a desert of news, nothing but promises of Gov't officials and guesses of newspaper correspondents. Mr. Pollock says to mark his words that 80 of the U. S. Volunteers now marching towards Cuba will die of yellow fever. He saw the D. C. volunteers march past the President this afternoon, he said they were beardless boys. I think he forgets that most young men shave now.

Much love to you and to your father and Mrs Bell.

Yours ever, Mabel.